Foreign arms and training for naxalites

1039. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Naxalites have been acquiring arms from China and Pakistan and training through LTTE in Sri Lanka for their nefarious activities in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken up the issue with foreign Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, their response and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No confirmed reports have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Relaxing of visa rules for students

1040. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US proposes to relax visa rules for students, tourists etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India also proposes to relax these rules to attract foreign students and tourists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) On 17 January 2006 the US Department of State and Department of Homeland Security announced measures to speedup the processing of US visas. It is Government's understanding that to decrease the wait time for visa appointments for travellers, American Embassies and Consulates have now established procedures to expedite the processing of business visas and are working closely with local American Chambers of Commerce in many countries to expedite the visa process for bona fide business